

Air Vice-Marshal (ret) John Kindler. AO AFC



As an RAAF fighter pilot and ETPS qualified test pilot John Kindler, Air-Vice Marshal (Retd), flew 4500 hours on some 35 different types of aircraft, but principally on the F-86 Sabre, the Mirage III and the F/A-18 Hornet. In 1978 he was awarded the Air Force Cross for services as a test pilot. He held Squadron, Wing and Group command positions in fighter operations. As a staff officer he held several appointments including Director Combat Force Development and Director General Capability Policy and Development, in the National Defence Headquarters.

John's Air Force career culminated in his appointment as Air Commander Australia in March 2000. He was responsible for the operational training and employment of some 10000 Air Force combat personnel and the RAAF's fleet of 225 combat aircraft. In four years as ACAUST he planned and led some 38 joint, coalition and combined operations in Australia and overseas. For this service he was appointed an Officer in the Order of Australia in 2002.

After 36 years of active service John transferred to the RAAF Reserves on 30 March 2004, where he served as an Airworthiness Mentor after co-chairing Australia's Defence Force Airworthiness Boards from 2006 to 2018. As the Aerospace Specialist for the Defence Export Unit in the Defence Materiel Organisation he was a high level advocate for Australia's defence industry for 4 years from 2008. From April 2004 to November 2014 he was Chairman of the Board of Newcastle Airport Limited. In his own business as an independent consultant John advises Pratt and Whitney Military Engines on Defence industry and acquisition policy.

John and his wife, Narelle, live in Newcastle. They have two adult children and four grand children.

Details

Enlisted in the RAAF in 1968 as Cadet Aircrew on No 70 pilot course the first all-through Macchi jet course.

Completed F86 Sabre Conversion and then joined a Sabre Squadron in 1969-70

Posted in 1971 to Mirage Conversion. Then joined 3 Squadron in Butterworth, Malaysia flying Mirages between 1971 and 73. He experienced an engine failure while flying in Southern Malaysia and had his 1st ejection.

Posted to Empire Test Pilot School, Boscombe Down, UK in 1974 on No 33 fixed wing course

Posted to Aircraft Research and Development Unit for test flying duties from 1975-1979.

1979 – 1981 Squadron Pilot and Flight Commander 75SQN/3SQN Butterworth to fly Mirage.

Then Flight Commander, 77Sqn , Williamtown, Mirage 1981-1983. Experienced his 2nd ejection from a Mirage (ejected into the sea off Nowra).

Attended RAF Basic and Advanced Staff College courses, Bracknell UK 1984

Posted Directorate Air Force Safety in Canberra 1985-1986. Completed 3 fast-Jet accident investigations.

Attended University of Southern California, USAF Flight Safety Officer's Course, 1985,

Completed F18, Hornet Conversion 1987. Posted Commanding Officer, 77SQN, 1987-1990

Attended Joint Services Staff College Canberra 1990.

Posted HQ ADF Canberra, Force Development, Dir Systems/Dir Combat Force Dev 1990-1993

Posted Officer Commanding, 81 Wing, Williamtown, 1993-1996

Then HQ ADF Canberra, Director General, Capability Policy and Plans, 1996-1997

Posted Commander, Tactical Fighter Group flying Hornets 1998-2000

Posted HQ Air Command, Glenbrook, Air Commander, Australia 2000-2003

Retired 2004

Enlisted into RAAF Reserves 2006-2018:

Air Force Headquarters Canberra, ADF Airworthiness Board Member 2006-2018

Service History Items of interest:

Total Flying 4500hrs on 35 types, mostly Mirage (2300) and Classic Hornet (1400)

Ejected twice from Mirage aircraft; 1972 and 1982

52 deployments to Woomera for weapons system flight trials whilst at ARDU

As Air Commander Australia planned 35 single service, joint and coalition operations incl. first combat operations for fighters in over 30 years

Rank Achieved: Air Vice-Marshal

Commendations/Awards:

AO for services as Air Commander Australia

Air Force Cross for services as a test pilot

Medals/Ribbons; ASM SE Asia 1945-75, DLSM 6 clasps, ADM

Civilian Employment:

Chairman of the Board, Newcastle Airport 2004-2014

Independent Consultant to Pratt and Whitney Military Engines, CT, USA, 2006+